

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01449 180918Z

14-12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAJ-01 ARA-06 /069 W
----- 079787

R 180830Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS USIA

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, RQ, US

SUBJECT: RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE ON PUERTO RICO

REF: A. STATE 137825

B. PRAGUE 1347

C. PRAGUE 1358

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE REF A, AND ALSO WISHES TO THANK USIA FOR ALERTNESS IN SENDING USINFO WITH TEXT OF ANGEL DE PABLOS ARTICLE " THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS." WE DECIDED TWO-PRONGED APPROACH MIGHT BE BEST. THUS, WE HAVE SENT LETTER OF PROTEST TO MIROSLAV MOC, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF RUDE PRAVO (COPY POUCHED EUR/EE), ENCLOSING COPY OF DE PABLOS ARTICLE. IN ADDITION, CHARGE AND POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON ZANTOVSKY JUNE 16 TO REGISTER PROTEST AND TO LEAVE COPIES OF LETTER TO MOC AND OF DE PABLO ARTICLE.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH ZANTOVSKY, CHARGE, INDICATING HE WAS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, MADE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL A.

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01449 180918Z

ZANTOVSKY NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD SPENT SOME YEARS IN THE

U.S. HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH PUERTO RICO AND COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARTICLE OR OF OUR REBUTTAL. HE THOUGHT IT A GOOD THING, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD WRITTEN TO MOC TO EXPLAIN UR VIEWS.

3. ON MORE GENERAL PLANE, ZANOTVSKY ARGUED THAT MFA DOES NOT CONTROL THE PRESS, AND THAT HIS DEPARTMENT CANNOT POSSIBLY KEEP UP WITH EVERYTHING WRITTEN ABOUT U.S. HE DID PERSONALLY TRY TO GIVE "LEADS" WHENEVER THERE WAS SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SATISFIED, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH COVERAGE OF ROCKEFELLER VISIT. (EMBOFFS AGREED THAT WE WERE.) BASICALLY, HOWEVER, HE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE SUGGESTION THAT USG SHOULD BE CONSIDERING STEPS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS; IF RELATIONS WERE IMPROVED, PRESS TREATMENT WOULD OF COURSE REFLECT THIS. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH IMPROVEMENT, FRAME OF REFERENCE OF THOSE WRITING ARTICLES ON U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO BE DOMINATED BY ISSUES SUCH AS CZECHOSLOVAK GOLD.

4. CHARGE REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH MFA DID NOT CONTROL PRESS, THE SYSTEM IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF PARTY GUIDANCE TO THE PRESS WAS WELL KNOWN, AND US OFFICIALS READ CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS IN THIS LIGHT. IF CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS WAS HARDER ON US THAN WAS ANY OTHER PRESS IN EE, AS MANY BELIEVED, OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE INFLUENCED BY NEGATIVISM OF CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS WHEN THEY CONSIDERED POLICY DECISIONS. WHEN ZANTOVSKY MENTIONED THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VE-DAY PRESS LINE, CHARGE NOTED THAT LINE TAKEN THIS YEAR WAS CONSIDERABLY UNFRIENDLIER TO US THAN COMMENTARY IN PREVIOUS YEARS, AND THIS WAS DULY NOTED BY EMBASSY AND BY WASHINGTON. CHARGE CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT ATTITUDE OF CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS WAS HINDRANCE TO BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO WAIT FOR BETTER RELATIONS TO IMPROVE THE TONE OF THE PRESS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGE IN CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS TREATMENT OF THE US, WE BELIEVE THAT OCCASIONAL PROTESTS SUCH AS THIS ONE ABOUT PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE ARTICLES ARE SUEFUL TO LET THOSE IN AUTHORITY KNOW WE ARE AWARE OF, AND INDIGNANT ABOUT, WHAT THEY SAY.
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PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01449
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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